

SPECIAL DECLARATION 10: OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAMELIDS

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, on the occasion of the Fifth Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), held on January 25, 2017;

We express our support for the initiative to declare 2018 as the International Year of the Camelids, because this family of mammals has a high potentiality that contributes to reducing the high rates of extreme poverty and malnutrition due to its many qualities (meat, milk, fiber, organic fertilizer, medicinal use, means of transport and others).

We would like to highlight the support given to this initiative by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC) during the negotiations of the 25th Session of the Committee on Agriculture of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Developed from 26 to 30 September 2016, in the city of Rome, Italy, which also had the support of some countries and Regional Groups of Africa and Asia.

The promotion of camelids contributes to improve the resources to ensure sustainable and resilient livelihoods in an environmentally friendly way, on the other hand, to the eradication of hunger and malnutrition. In addition, a comprehensive management of the products offered by camelids will promote the inclusion of the most vulnerable populations of rural societies, leading to the creation of sustainable jobs promoting equality.

We emphasize that the South American camelids are four existent species (Llama, Alpaca, Vicuña and Guanaco) that were the basis of livestock in the pre-Hispanic period of the Andean countries, and are considered as the only species of camelids native to the continent. In addition, these species symbolize an important element of the cultural and spiritual identity of millennial indigenous peoples. In this way, they constitute the social basis of the ancestral and actual knowledge of these peoples who have maintained, preserved and protected the genetic biodiversity.

The purpose of the International Year of Camelids will be a noble strategy to sensitize the international community to recognize and value the economic and cultural importance of camelids in the lives of indigenous peoples most prone to and vulnerable to extreme poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition, with an impact on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while recognizing the integral and indivisible approach of the Agenda, the sustainable development goals and targets.

Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, January 25th, 2017.